

# Link Cramahe, the community resource hub, officially launched

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

Colborne - Link Cramahe, the website established to serve as a resource hub for Cramahe Township, held its official launch Nov. 2.

"We got quite a good turnout," coordinator Sarah Johnston said, with members of the public coming forward with "a lot of ideas" about what to add that "we hadn't thought of yet."

The website, created with funding provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, is a repository of community assets and organizations as well as a calendar of local events, to be shared, coordinated and communicated.

There's also a volunteers page that's in need of community input to get it off the ground.

Johnston, who's on a six-month contract, said "about 95 per cent" of the website is complete.

"We have quite good range of basics on the website right now," she said.

She updates it daily, with information she's gathered online or received in person at the Keeler Centre where she is based.



Cramahe Township Deputy Mayor Sandra Arthur, left, stopped in at the library in Colborne for the official launch of Link Cramahe, the website designed to serve as a resource hub for the community, showing assets and events.

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT NOV 10/16 John Campbell/Metroland

Johnston can be reached by email through that might be helpful, and questions.

the website, www.linkcramahe.ca. Johnston said the website is "the first step"

She welcomes news of events, suggestions in connecting with the public and keeping

members informed of what's going on and what resources are available.

Many residents don't have access to a computer or the Internet, other through Cramahe Public Library, so "we will be starting a flyer of some sort," she said. "We're hoping monthly or maybe on a bulletin board in the community" in a central location.

She and the Link Cramahe committee are looking for more funding to extend her contract to continue what's been started.

There are options out there, "it's just a matter of finding them," Johnston said. "It's a project near and dear to my heart I would like to continue."

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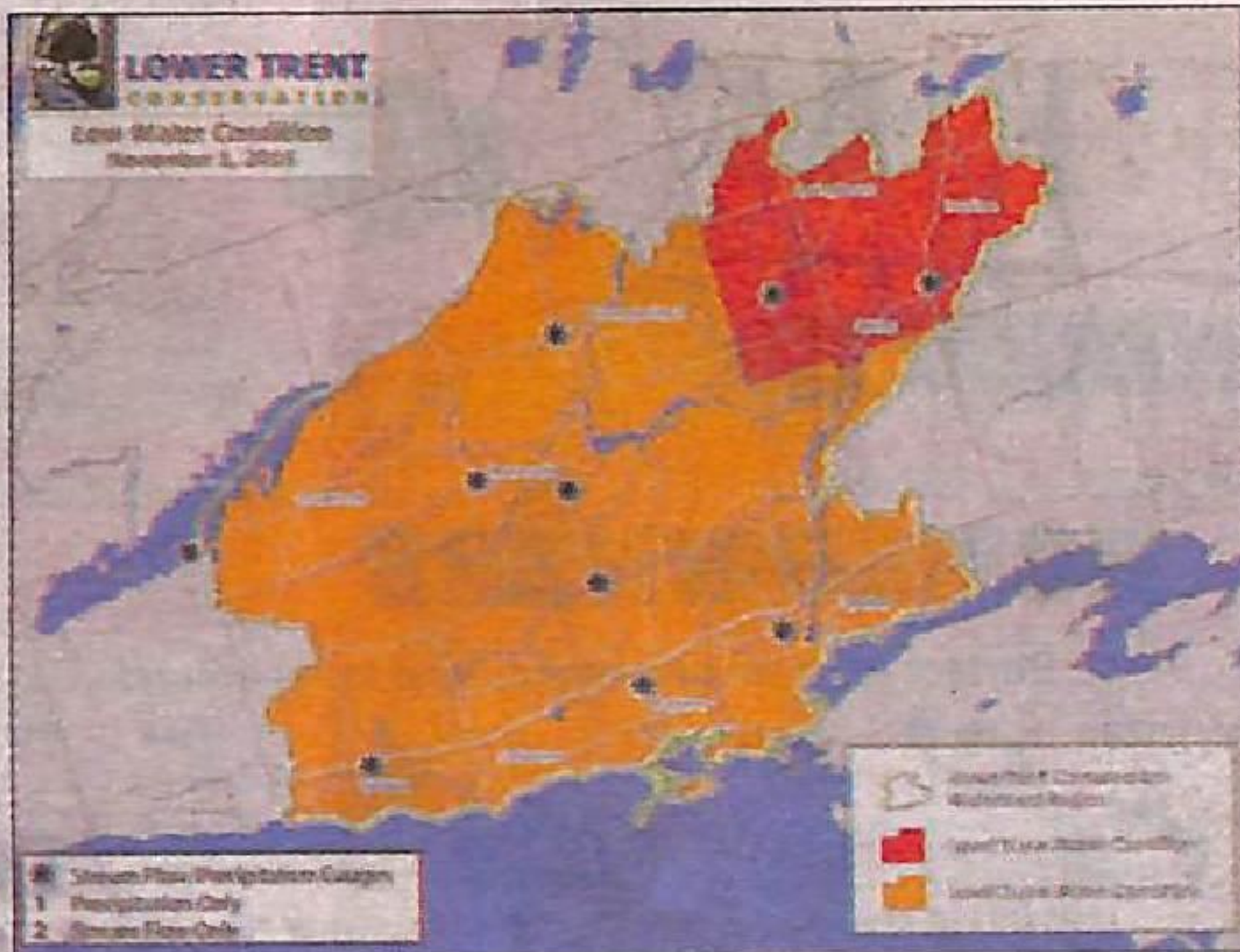
# Drought conditions continue and could stay throughout winter

BY ERIN STEWART

Quinte West - Although rainfall across the Trent River valley has been near average throughout October, drought conditions still continue across the region and could remain throughout the winter.

A Level 2 Low Water Condition remains for most of the watershed region, an area stretching from Grafton to Quinte West and from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake, while Level 3 Low Water Conditions remain for the Township of Stirling-Rawdon and the Municipality of Centre Hastings, as of November 1.

"Stream flows and ground-water levels have definitely improved in response to a couple of days of continuous rain at the end of October," said Janet Noyes, Water Resources Manager at Lower Trent Conservation. "However, total rainfall for the past 7 months is only



This map shows the areas affected by drought and near-drought conditions.

Source - Lower Trent Conservation

68% of normal so we still need considerable rain before winter to recharge water levels."

With low precipitation since April, there has not been enough precipitation to totally recharge the ground water, leaving many wells with low levels or dry.

For people living on wells, if there isn't enough rainfall to replenish the ground water before the ground freezes, the drought will continue throughout the

winter and possibly into next spring, said Noyes.

"If we get to freeze up and it (ground water) hasn't fully recharged, it hasn't infiltrated either through stream flow or infiltrated through the ground and the soil, then the ground water levels could stay quite low," giving the potential for some wells to be dry throughout winter, said Noyes.

The Lower Trent Conservation is recommending that people on wells come up with some kind of additional water storage at their home.

Noyes said there are many people who have cisterns, underground storage tanks, which she said are probably the most permanent solution and typically the priciest.

Other storage recommendations include temporary storage outside with a storage tank but it is not a solution for the winter because the water would freeze.

Some people also have additional storage inside their house where their well pumps water into an inside storage unit.

"Those are options for people and basically that has to be done through a licensed plumber," she said. "Conserve all you can and if you are in an area that you're seeing some effects from the drought I would recommend you look at some other storage types."

Some people do get truckloads of water and put it down their wells but Noyes said this can be ineffective and temporary. A lot of the time this just ends up recharging the aquifer, as the water isn't staying in the well.

When asked if people on wells should be worried about a drought through the winter at this point, Noyes said, "They should be cognizant of the situation and be prepared."

Anyone experiencing hardships as a result of the dry

conditions is encouraged to contact Lower Trent Conservation at 613-394-4829 or information@lrc.on.ca to help with tracking the impacts of the low water conditions.

Everyone is still encouraged to reduce water use where possible.

For the Townships of Stirling-Rawdon and Centre Hastings, residents in these level 3 areas are asked to reduce water use by 50 per cent. Under the level 2 conditions, residents, businesses, industries, and municipalities are asked to continue to reduce water use by at least 20 per cent.

There are three levels of Low Water Conditions with Level 1 being the least severe and Level 3 being the most severe. A Level 1 Low Water Condition was declared on June 3, upgraded to Level 2 on July 4 and upgraded to Level 3 for the northeastern portion of the watershed region on Sept. 1.